

March 8, 2013

Weekly Views

The Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility (IREF) Family Education Department hosted its first Circle of Discussion, a forum by which IREF residents who are soon to be released back to the community can engage with agencies and employers to address their questions and concerns regarding employment, human services, and other areas of re-entry. Director of Creative Media Services at Tennessee State University John Girton served as the guest speaker. Girton, a former hip hop concert tour manager and media industry entrepreneur, discussed a variety of topics, including effective communication, networking, male empowerment, building relationships, and making good choices. The Circle of Discussion will meet on a monthly basis, and will host a different guest speaker each month.

Pendleton Times-Post Staff Writer Amanda Matlock visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to interview newly appointed Superintendent Dushan Zatecky for the purpose of introducing Superintendent Zatecky to the Town of Pendleton and its surrounding communities. (see photo below)

The Terre Haute CBS affiliate, WTHI TV, joined news organizations statewide in reporting that Indiana's recidivism rate has dropped to 36.1 percent! Gina Glaros from WTHI went to the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility to find out why. She told viewers more about the Department's push for re-entry success through strong education and vocational efforts, substance abuse counseling, anger management, fatherhood and faith and character development programs.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility held a Behavior Bucks Auction for students in the facility's Intensive Treatment Unit. Students earned "bucks" during the month for positive behavior. They were then able to use the bucks to bid on food items, hygiene products, games and craft supplies.

Camp Summit Boot Camp conducted an Employee Assembly to brief staff on significant events taking place at the facility, within the agency and to recognize staff accomplishments for the preceding quarter. Staff members Christian Bryce, Patrick Cleary, Jeremy Dykstra, Colleen Gourley, Erin Viou and Kenneth Watts were given awards for outstanding contributions to the facility and state service over the past few months. Four employees were also honored for years of service to the state ranging from 10-15 years. Lt. Commander Stephen Batusic was honored for 15 years of service and Counselors Nicole Doctor and Sally Powalski were recognized for 10 years of service. In attendance for the recall were Community Advisory Board Members, Robert Taylo, John Stemmler and Faye Moore.

Correctional Industrial Facility Superintendent Wendy Knight would like to congratulate Bruce St. John on his promotion to Correctional Lieutenant and William Graham on his promotion to Recreation Coordinator 3. William Graham has served in the Department since 1989, starting as a Correctional Officer then promoting through the ranks. He served as a Recreation Leader for six years and brings a wealth of knowledge to his new position. Lt. Bruce St. John started his career with the Department at Plainfield Correctional Facility in 2011 where he worked as a Correctional Officer before his transfer to CIF in 2012. He was soon thereafter promoted to Sergeant. Lt. St. John's 22 years of service as a full time National Guardsman and his work ethic have contributed to his rapid ascension through the ranks. Please join us in congratulating both of these gentlemen for their promotions.

Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) Superintendent Mark Levenhagen has announced the promotion of Sandra Sharp to Unit Team Manager. Ms. Sharp, who began her career in 1989 as a Correctional Officer, will supervise the Industrial Complex and the facility's level one unit. Ms. Sharp joined the WCC team in 2005 and has been Director of the PLUS Unit since its conception in 2006. Ms. Sharp is recognized throughout the state for her active participation and numerous positions in the Indiana Criminal Justice Association.

While a participant at the Indiana Department of Correction Pre-Service Academy, Officer Jamica Tucker from the Indiana State Prison was the recipient of the Professionalism Award. Officer Tucker exemplified the highest standard of professionalism in her demeanor, behavior, appearance and attitude.

Residents of the Indiana Veterans Education and Transition (INVET) Unit at IREF donated a fire station dollhouse to the Craine House. The Craine House is a court-ordered alternative sentencing, work release program dedicated to serving non-violent female offenders with pre-school children. INVET Resident David Pierce, who conceived the design for the fire station house after reviewing several pictures and research about firefighters, worked for more

than four months collecting materials, cutting, painting, making furniture, and adding personal touches and comforts. Supplies for the fire house were obtained by donations raised by INVET and Reformative Re-Entry Residential Program (RRRP) residents via food sales fundraisers. IREF Building Trades also donated some material items, and Sherwin Williams of Avon donated the wallpaper and paint. The Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD) provided the decals and stickers decorating the inside of the fire truck garages. (see photo left)

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility Superintendent Linda Commons attended the Madison County Leadership Breakfast for Scouting. The Boy Scouts and Troop Leaders discussed the importance of positive role models and mentors.

